

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HEW-04

OES-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 SAM-01 ACDA-07 MC-02 /104 W

----- 002430

R 270545Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3939

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TBIO, SWEL, PINS ET

SUBJECT: MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARRIVE IN ASMARA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4721 (DTG 200847Z APR 76)(NOTAL)

1. DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 19, LARGE NUMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL, MAINLY MALE NURSES AND DRESSERS HAVE ARRIVED IN ASMARA. ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 148; NURSES AND 30 DOCTORS; TO A TOTAL OF 217 (ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN CONSUL). SIMULTANEOUSLY, ERITREAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARE REPORTEDLY BEING TRANSFERRED FROM ASMARA. SOME OF THE NEWLY-ARRIVED PERSONNEL ARE TO STAFF THE FORMER AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION HOSPITAL IN GHINDA WHICH WAS RECENTLY TAKEN OVER BY THE EPMG WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE MISSION'S PARENT ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S.

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2. IN ADDITION TO THE INFLUX OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL, IT IS REPORTED THAT ITEGUE MENEN HOSPITAL IS BEING EXPANDED, AND A TOTAL OF 400 BEDS ARE TO BE RESERVED FOR THE MILITARY. FURTHER FACILITIES IN ASMARA ARE BEING REQUISITIONED TO BE CONVERTED INTO HOSPITALS. NO EXPLANATION IS BEING PUT FORWARD FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

3. ERITREANS, AWARE OF THE ARRIVAL OF LARGE NUMBERS OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARE APPREHENSIVE THAT THE MOVE SIGNALS IMPENDING ACTION EITHER AGAINST INSURGENTS IN THE FIELD OR AGAINST THE POPULATION OF ASMARA. THE INFLUX OF THESE MEDICAL PERSONNEL IS CONCURRENT WITH THE REPORTED ARRIVAL DURING THE SAME WEEK OF UP TO 10 PLANELOADS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH IS PRESUMABLY TO BE EMPLOYED IN AN IMPENDING OFFENSIVE IN THE REGION.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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